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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

• ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY WEST GERMANY

TDCS -314/04119-66

DATE OF INFO. 23 MARCH 1966

DISTR. 28 MARCH 1966

SUBJECT

ILLNESS OF BFV PRESIDENT SCHRUEBBERS

PLACE & DATE ACQ. GERMANY, BONN /23 MARCH 1966/

REF IN

SOURCE A QUALIFIED AMERICAN OFFICIAL FROM
AND OFFICIALS OF THE FEDERAL OFFICE FOR THE
APPRAISAL: PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION /BFV/.

FIELD REPORT NO. EGN-2721

1. BFV PRESIDENT HUBERT SCHRUEBBERS HAS SUFFERED A RATHER SEVERE ATTACK OF WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED FACIAL RHEUMATISM, WHICH HAS CAUSED A PARALYSIS OF THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIS FACE. HE IS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN SPEAKING, EATING AND KEEPING HIS RIGHT EYELID OPEN. ALTHOUGH RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING IN THE BFV THAT SCHRUEBBERS MAY HAVE SUFFERED A STROKE, THIS HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED.

2. SCHRUEBBERS HAS BEEN CONFINED TO HIS HOME FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD WHICH WILL BE AT LEAST FOUR WEEKS AND PERHAPS TWO MONTHS. HE IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING ELECTRICAL MASSAGE TREATMENTS. SINCE HE IS NOT COMPLETELY INCAPACI-

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TATED, HE IS ABLE TO READ IMPORTANT BFV PAPERS AND SIGN DOCUMENTS. THE BFV HAS SET UP A TWICE DAILY COURIER SYSTEM BETWEEN HIS HOME AND OFFICE.

3. THE ABOVE SITUATION HAS CAUSED A SERIOUS LEADERSHIP PROBLEM WITHIN THE BFV, SINCE BFV VICE-PRESIDENT DR. ERNST BRUECKNER HAS BEEN ON SICK LEAVE SINCE THE END OF DECEMBER 1965 AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THE BFV PERMANENTLY IN ANY CASE. AT PRESENT, DEPARTMENT III CHIEF, DR. GUENTHER NOLLAU, IS ACTING BFV CHIEF AND WILL PRESIDE AT MEETING OF THE CHIEFS OF THE STATE OFFICES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION (EFV) SCHEDULED FOR 21 MARCH 1966. HE WILL ALSO REPRESENT THE BFV AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATO SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING EARLY IN APRIL 1966.

4. /FIELD COMMENT - THE LONG-RANGE EFFECTS UPON THE BFV AS A RESULT OF SCHRUEBBER'S ILLNESS CAN NOT YET BE ESTIMATED, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY WILL INTENSIFY ITS EFFORT TO FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR DR. BRUECKNER, ALTHOUGH SCHRUEBBERS HAS STATED THAT HE WANTS TO TAKE HIS TIME IN ASSESSING AND SELECTING A NEW VICE-PRESIDENT. DR. BRUECKNER'S RESIGNATION WILL NOT BE MADE OFFICIAL UNTIL HE RETURNS FROM SICK LEAVE ABOUT 15 APRIL 1966. NO INFORMATION ON HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH ONE SENIOR BFV OFFICIAL STATED THAT HE IS ALLEGEDLY UNDER CONSIDERATION AS CHIEF OF THE BUNDESVERWALTUNGSAMT IN

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